

This legislation is supported virtually every public safety and municipal organization, including * * *.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and the Congressional Fire Services Institute; the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Major County Sheriff's Association; the National League of Cities, the National Governors' Association and the National Association of Counties; the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO) and the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Attached to this statement are letters of support for the legislation.

They all agree: Public safety needs this spectrum. And Congress should keep its commitment.

CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES

INSTITUTE,

Washington, DC, November 28, 2001.

Hon. JANE HARMAN,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN HARMAN: As Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Institute's National Advisory Committee, I extend to you the support of the committee for the Homeland Emergency Response Operations Network Act.

Composed of 40 national fire and emergency services organizations, the NAC provides counsel to CFSI on public safety issues. Among the organizations that serve on this committee are the International Association of Arson Investigators, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, International Fire Service Training Association, International Society of Fire Service Instructors, National Fire Protection Association, National Volunteer Fire Council, and the North American Fire Training Directors. These are the associations that represent the interest of our 1.2 million first responders.

Following the release of the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee report in 1996, CFSI has worked aggressively in support of the report's recommendations. First and foremost is the set aside of 24 megahertz of broadcast spectrum for public safety use. This spectrum will address an immediate need of public safety, clearing the way for interoperable wireless communication systems.

Following the terrorists attacks on September 11th, the need for this spectrum has become a top priority for public safety. We can no longer afford to run the risk of responding to large-scale disasters without interoperable communication systems. Otherwise, we will jeopardize the lives of all first responders at the scene. Congress needs to remove the 85 percent exemption on penetration of digital television receivers and any other exemptions, and hold firm on the previously set 2006 deadline in the best interest of public safety!

I look forward to working with you, Congressman Curt Weldon and all other federal legislators who will offer their support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

DENNIS COMPTON,

Chair, National Advisory Committee.

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC-SAFETY
COMMUNICATIONS

OFFICIALS INTERNATIONAL, INC.,

December 3, 2001.

Hon. JANE HARMAN,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HARMAN: On behalf of the Association of Public-Safety Communication Officials-International, Inc and its

15,000 members, I want to thank you for introducing legislation to address the serious radio spectrum issues facing our nation's police, fire, EMS, and other public safety agencies. Your proposed legislation would establish a firm date for clearing television broadcast stations from spectrum allocated for public safety radio systems pursuant to a 1997 Congressional mandate.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, demonstrated yet again that public safety personnel all too often lack access to sufficient radio spectrum to provide effective and interoperable communications when responding to emergencies. On a day-to-day basis, public safety personnel from different agencies and jurisdictions are often unable to communicate at emergency scenes, usually because spectrum shortages have forced them to operate their radio systems over different, incompatible frequency bands. In many metropolitan areas, public safety personnel also confront dangerous radio frequency congestion, again due to the inadequacy of public safety spectrum allocations.

These problems, and proposed solutions, were documented by the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC) in a report dated September 11, 1996. Among PSWAC's recommendations was that approximately 25 MHz of new radio spectrum be made available for public safety within five years. Congress required such an allocation in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and the FCC responded with a specific spectrum allocation in 1998. However, when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon exactly five years after the PSWAC report, public safety personnel responding to those horrific events were still unable to use the newly allocated spectrum. The difficulty is that the spectrum remains blocked by ongoing television broadcast operations in much of the nation (including New York and Washington).

The legislation that you are offering will establish a firm date for television stations to vacate spectrum already allocated for public safety. If adopted, the legislation will open the door for state and local governments to plan, fund, and even construct the new radio systems they need, confident that the necessary radio spectrum will be available for use on a specific date. We hope that your colleagues in Congress will give this matter immediate and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

GLEN NASH,

President.

MAJOR COUNTY SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION,

Minneapolis, MN, December 3, 2001.

Hon. JANE HARMAN,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN HARMAN: The members of the Major County Sheriffs' Association and other public safety organizations in the United States continue to be in urgent need of additional radio spectrum to safely perform their mission critical duties.

In response to that need, in 1997 the Congress directed the FCC to make 24 MHz of spectrum (currently TV Channels 63, 64, 68, 69) available for use by public safety. Unfortunately the legislation was linked to transition of TV stations in those channels from analog to digital signals and there is no date-certain deadline by which public safety will be able to use this spectrum.

We are in support of legislation to be known as "THE HOMELAND AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE OPERATIONS (H.E.R.O.) ACT" that would require current TV Broadcast Incumbents on those channels to vacate that spectrum for use by public safety no later than December 31, 2006.

We appreciate the efforts of you and your colleagues in Congress who will be intro-

ducing this legislation that is so urgently needed by law enforcement agencies throughout the United States.

Respectfully,

S/PATRICK D. MCGOWAN,

President.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS

OF POLICE,

Alexandria, VA, December 3, 2001.

Hon. JANE HARMAN,

U.S. House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HARMAN: On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), I am writing to express our support for the Homeland and Emergency Response Operations (H.E.R.O) Act. As you know, the IACP is the world oldest and largest association of law enforcement executives with more than 18,000 members in 100 countries.

As you are aware, law enforcement and other public safety organizations in the United States are in critical need of additional radio spectrum to safely perform their mission critical duties. In response to that need, in 1997 Congress directed the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to make 24 MHz of spectrum (currently used by television channels 63, 64, 68, 69) available for use by public safety. Unfortunately, the legislation was linked to the transition of television stations on those channels from analog to digital signal and there is no specific deadline by which this spectrum will be available for public safety use.

The public safety community, including the IACP, has repeatedly called on the FCC to assign this much needed spectrum to public safety in order to achieve critical interoperability in communications between agencies. For example, the agencies that responded to the terrorist attack on the Pentagon were unable to communicate with each other because they lacked the required spectrum for interoperable radio communications. Consequently, the IACP strongly supports the H.E.R.O. Act, which would require current television stations using those channels to vacate the spectrum for use by public safety no later than December 31, 2006.

We appreciate the efforts of you and your colleagues in Congress who will be introducing this legislation that is so urgently needed by law enforcement agencies throughout the United States.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM B. BERGER,

President.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

OF FIRE CHIEFS,

Fairfax, VA, November 30, 2001.

Hon. JANE HARMAN,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HARMAN: The International Association of Fire Chiefs and, indeed, America's fire and emergency service, fully supports the Homeland Emergency Response Operations (HERO) Act to provide for the expected and increased assignment of spectrum for public safety.

In 1996 the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee reported to Congress on the needs for additional spectrum for public safety. In 1997 Congress responded to one of the recommendations by mandating that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) allocate 24 MHz of spectrum for the exclusive use of public safety from the 700 MHz band occupied by television channels 60-69. The FCC complied; channels 63, 64, 68 and 69 have been reserved for use by public safety agencies. The FCC has promulgated rules for the 700 MHz public safety band which, when implemented, will provide much needed additional spectrum for both voice and data communication, and improve interoperability among 700 MHz band users.